

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Lucy Wynard, Senior Pastor

Shari Duminy, Transitional Associate Pastor

H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor

2650 Farnam Street

Omaha, NE 68131-3616

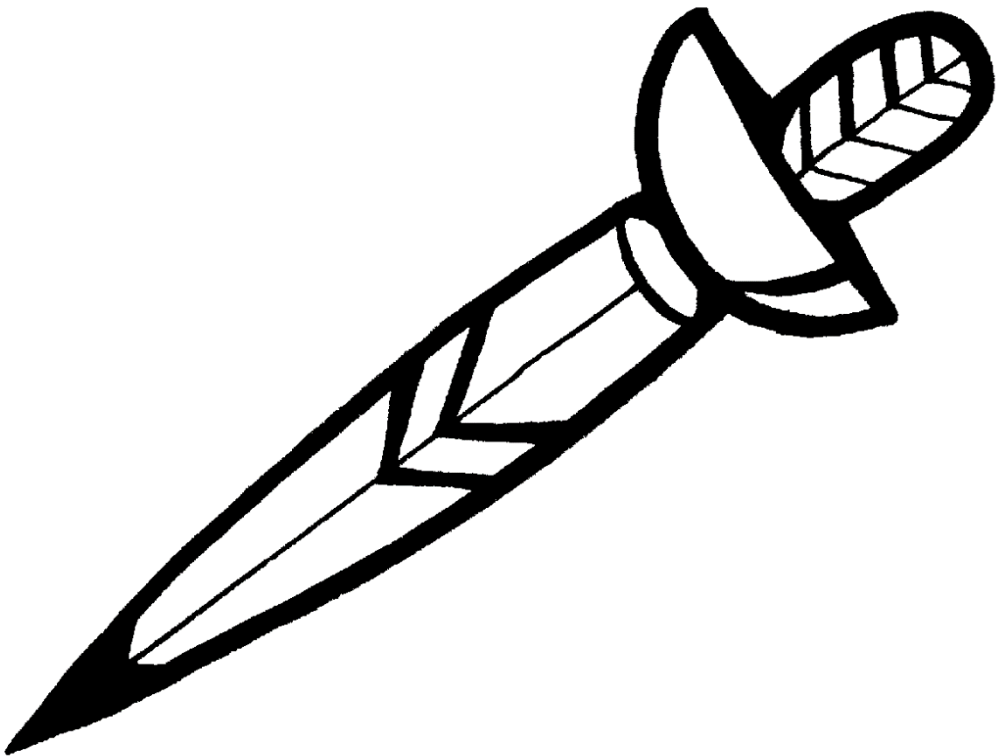
402-341-7761

www.kmlchurch.org

July 14, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(rise in body or spirit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider, help us.

C It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for the life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807 vs 1 & 3

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

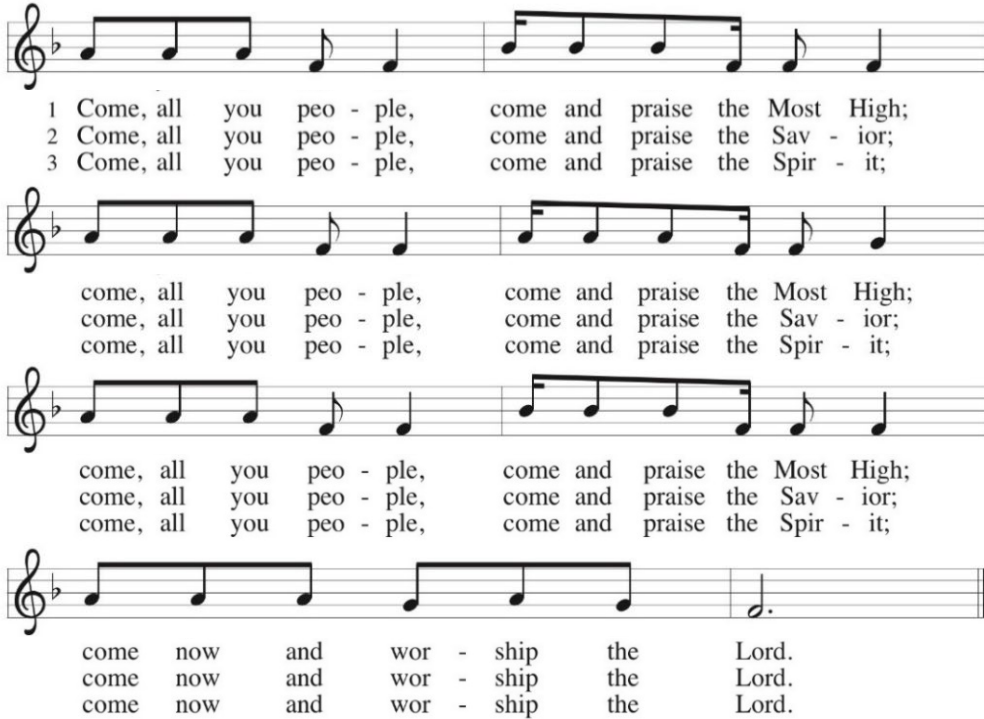
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, All You People

ELW 819



1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God,
- C** from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.
Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and also that we, being
defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

(sit)

FIRST READING

Amos 7:7-15

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ ”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

📖 Word of God, Word of Life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 (read responsively)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

G Thanks be to God.

(rise in body or spirit)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain Leader

All

Lis - ten now for the gos - pel! Al - le - lu - ia! It is

God's word that chang - es us! Al - le - lu - ia!

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, melt and break our hearts of stone,

Refrain

un - til we give our lives to God, and God a - lone.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING 9:00 AM

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Wynard

(rise in body or spirit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW 717

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.</p> | <p>2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.</p> |
| <p>3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.</p> | |

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- ☞ God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- ☞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- Response: ☞ In your mercy,
☞ **hear our prayer.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Prayers this week: Pr. John & Joanne Carlson, brother & sister-in-law of Paul Carlson, Tom Jensen, Lynn Meyer

On-going Care: Lesley Akers, Michael Bogue, Betty Callies, Cheri Biggs, John & Jane Bodnar, Don Burton, Shirley Dietrich, Mike Edris, Albert Grage, Jessica Hannon, Richard & Betty Holzer, Joan Jacobson-Trotter, Jason Klonglan, Orville & Julie Knapp, Marie Kubat, Ruth & Charles Martis, Tracey Mason, Lara McCormick, Nita Mueller, Linda Peltz, Jim Perkins, Kathy Preininger, David Samaria, LeClare Steffen, Vinn Stephens, Joyce Wachal, Gary Westerman, Deb Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Wyatt Johnson, grandson of Ken and Linda Johnson; Tyler Johnston, son of Robert and Michelle Johnston, Daniel Milstead, nephew of Darlene Anderson; Cody Ray, grandson of Betty Callies; Dannika Rees, daughter of Eric and Toby Rees; Joel Woosley, son of Debbie Woosley, nephew of Steph Stephens, and grandson of Vinn Stephens

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Katie Larson, Colombia; Rev. Bridget Gautieri, Wittenburg Center, Germany; Rev. Robert & Kathy Moore, Leipzig, Germany; and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators; our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin, as they assist refugees from the war in Ukraine

Other Prayers: *Seminarians* – James Holzer, Katie Larson, Giselle Loucks

THE PEACE IS SHARED

- 📖 The peace of Christ be with you always.
- 📖 And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this church possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online or place your offering in the plates that are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary. For those of you watching through our media outlets, if you are able, please mail in your offering or donate online. Thank you!



THE TABLE IS PREPARED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art

arr. Gary Lanier
Kai Johnson, violin

(rise in body or spirit)

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Jesus, Bread of life,
C you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW 192

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

☐ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

☑ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come to the table Christ has set.

☑ **There is more than enough for all!**

(sit)

THE DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is intinction: you will receive the consecrated bread and then you may dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free bread is available upon request.

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.

- 3 Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
- 4 Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW 414

- 1 Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim,
all in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
everlasting is your reign.
- 2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn
angel choirs above are raising;
cherubim and seraphim,
in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

- 3 Lo, the apostolic train
join your sacred name to hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain,
and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun
through the church the song goes on.
- 4 Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you,
though in essence only one;
undivided God we claim you
and, adoring, bend the knee
while we own the mystery.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900

(rise in body or spirit)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ Jesus, Bread of life,
☞ we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING FOR ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

See Insert

BLESSING

- ☞ The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

RECESSIONAL HYMN

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

ELW 776 vs 1 & 4

**1 What God ordains is good indeed,
for all life well providing.
The will of God is best for me,
the ground of my confiding.
My faithful God,
on ev'ry road
you know the way unfolding
and my hand you are holding.**

**4 What God ordains is good indeed.
My Lord will never fail me
on danger's path, in deepest need,
when death in grief shall veil me.
My God so dear
will draw me near,
in loving arms will hold me,
at last in light enfold me.**

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649-1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, *organ*

✠ ✠ ✠

KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Lucy Wynard	Senior Pastor
Pr. Shari Duminy	Transitional Associate Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Kristin Boe	Director of Faith Formation
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Danielle Fleming	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Louis Flake	Night Manager
Kayla Slaughter	Janitorial Staff
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Shannon Picha	Nursery Director
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director
Jill Conway	Director of Kountze Commons



KOUNTZE
Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street Omaha, NE 68131
402-341-7761 www.kmlchurch.org

July 13 & 14, 2024

*Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a **“City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry”** and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years. If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.*

Holy Communion

All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully. Our form of distribution is Intinction. You will receive the wafer in your hand and then dip into the wine.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Activity bags, children's Bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a room just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

Nursery

Our nursery is available from 8:45 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

Attendance Cards

All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. Offering plates are located by the doors in the Nave.

Large Print Bulletins and Listening Devices

Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-news & Social Media

If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the attendance card in your bulletin.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Kountze Memorial



Today at Kountze Memorial

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Bruce & Barb Nissen's wedding anniversary; given in honor of Jean Johnson's birthday; given by Dick & Carolyn Sieling in memory of their sons, Marcus and Jason

Kountze Café Lite

9:30—11:00 AM

Free-will Offering

Through Labor Day weekend, we will be serving a lighter fare for breakfast. If you would like to help with breakfast, even just for a Sunday or two, please contact Sherri Labedz.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:10 AM

Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall for a lite breakfast and then stay for Adult Forum.

This week: Who was John the Baptist?

Next week: Farewell to Pr. Shari Duminy

KMLC Book Group

Sunday, July 14

12:15 PM

Fellowship Lounge

All are welcome

***Horse* by Geraldine Brooks**

ELCA Youth Gathering

Join with our 5 youth, 3 young adults, and 2 adult leaders as they experience it live this week. You are invited to watch the Mass Gatherings at the Youth Gathering, Use the link below. The Gathering will not be recorded so you will need to watch it live.

Mass Gathering times are:

- Tuesday - Friday from 7 - 9:15 PM
- Saturday from 9:30 - 11:30 AM

www.elca.church/gathering

This Week at Kountze Memorial

July 14 Sunday

Jul 14 - Jul 21 ELCA Youth Gathering (gr 8-12 & 19 - 25 yrs) in New Orleans

Pentecost 8

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Kountze Café Lite

10:10 AM Adult Forum

12:15 PM Book Group

July 15 Monday

Good News Deadline

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM HGFC Clinic Board

5:00 PM KCCOC Board

July 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group

6:00 PM Congregation Council

July 17 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

4:45 PM Transition Team

July 18 Thursday

11:30 AM Men's Lunch

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Circle 5

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

July 19 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

July 20 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

6:00 PM Farewell Potluck for Pr. Shari Duminy

July 21 Sunday

Pentecost 9

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:30 AM Special Breakfast & Cake in Honor of Pr. Shari Duminy

10:10 AM Adult Forum

For Your Calendar/News & Notes

Men's Lunch

Thursday, July 18

11:30 AM

Fellowship Lounge

Cost: \$10.00

There is always good food and a good time. Stay tuned for more information.

36th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Camp

The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families! Quilt donations can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp until July 19. Please submit in a plastic bag with donation form that can found at:

www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction

Blessing of Backpacks

August 3, 5 PM

August 4, 9 & 11 AM

All students, teachers, professors, Sunday school volunteers, and support staff are invited to bring their school bags to church and receive a blessing for a year of abundant learning and development.

Table Grace The Musical

August 8-9

This musical is based on a combination of real life stories molded into fictional characters and story-lines. It's a celebration of grace, love, second chances, and acceptance. Don't miss it! The Table Grace newsletter can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4eebubc9>

School Supplies for KMLC Pantry Guests

Over the summer, we will be collecting backpacks of all types, notebooks, folders,

pencils, pens, crayons, markers, color pencils, glue, tissues, scissors, hand sanitizer, and anything else you may find useful for our school-aged pantry guests. You will find labeled donation tubs in the Fellowship Hall for your donations.

Kountze Food Pantry

Do you or anyone you know need service hours? Volunteering at the Kountze Food Pantry is a perfect opportunity to boost your resume and have some fun at the same time! We are in need of strong, young people to help us unload deliveries at 8 AM Monday morning, and to carry out groceries for our guests from 10 AM-12:45 PM. You can work all or part of that time. We also need people on Friday evenings from 5 PM-6:45 PM. There are other positions for people of all ages and abilities. Please consider joining us by signing up at the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Cards With Friends

We won't be meeting in August. Watch the bulletin, e-news, and Good News to see about starting up again in the fall.

Attendance & Giving

Thursday, 7/4—Wednesday, 7/10

Saturday: 42

Sunday: 9:00: 90 11:00: 48

Wednesday: 12:15: 13

Total: 193

Streaming: 53

Pantry Guests Served: 891 (inc. 265 children)

Medical Clinic Guests Served: Closed

Offering:

\$14,802.4 (Regular) \$4,233.13 (Specials)

\$911.00 (Debt Reduction)

God's goodness is worthy of praise and thanksgiving.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist
Monday	Amos 7:7-15	Vision of setting a plumb line
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Thanksgiving for blessings
Wednesday	Psalms 150	Praise for God's greatness
Thursday	1 Chronicles 16:23-27	David's psalm of thanksgiving
Friday	Romans 2:1-11	God's judgment is fair
Saturday	Psalms 85:8-13	God speaks peace to the people
Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of glory, we praise you for your mercy that embraces us with hope through the work of Christ and for our adoption as your children through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food that reminds us of your abundant goodness and your eternal care for us, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love and faithfulness of God embrace you with peace. (Psalm 85:10)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that inspires you and fills you with joy?
- How does God's love for you in Christ fill you with peace and joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 1:3-14.

Ephesians 1 is filled with praise and thanksgiving for Jesus Christ's saving work within the mystery of the will of God. God's wisdom goes far beyond our human ability to grasp. Therefore, what we can do is simply acknowledge that we are the recipients of a great inheritance for a reality that goes beyond human history. As an act of God's glory and grace, our God takes us back, despite our bro-

ken lives and forgives us—receives us back—through Christ. We who believe this message have received and trusted this good news as those who have been chosen and adopted. We are destined, marked, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. This text overflows with praise for the glory of God's ways meant for us and for all that God has created. The words fill us with awe and joy for who God is and who Christ is for us. Sometimes it is good to simply fill our thoughts with the glory and praise due to our God in Christ.

Discuss: What words describe your feelings when you imagine God's goodness to you and to all that God has created?

Pray: **God of power and glory, we thank you for this opportunity to contemplate your goodness that reaches out to us with mercy and grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show praise to God through Christ as an act of kindness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Shalom is a Hebrew word that means peace and was used as a greeting or a blessing. Psalm 85:8 speaks of peace, *"Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts."* Draw a heart and write the word peace inside. Think or talk about what God may be saying to you in this verse. *Pray:* **Lord God, you promise peace to those who are faithful. Help us to turn our hearts to you. Amen.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56